

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

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State Overview

LABOR FORCE DEVELOPMENTS

Labor force details for the state, labor market areas, counties, and major cities can be found in State Table 1 on page 3.

The new year began with Idaho's key employment indicators moving in negative directions. From December 2001, the unemployment rate was up, and both total employment and the count of nonfarm jobs were down.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2002 was 5.7 percent, up two-tenths of a percentage point from December. This was the highest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate since December 1994. Idaho's January rate was 1.2 percentage points above the 4.5 percent rate experienced one year ago and one-tenth of a percentage point above the national unemployment rate of 5.6 percent. For the first time since August 2001, Idaho's unemployment rate was above the national unemployment rate.

Idaho's seasonally adjusted *Civilian Labor Force* decreased slightly in January from December. Month-over-month, the number of unemployed persons increased by 1,400 to 39,300, and the number of employed persons decreased by 3,100 to 652,300. These changes resulted in a *Civilian Labor Force* of 691,600 in January, down 1700 from December 2001.

The changes from January 2001 were more dramatic and in some aspects more positive. From one year ago, the number of persons employed increased by 15,200, and the number of persons unemployed increased 9,200. As a result of the increase in both the number of persons unemployed and the number employed, the labor force increased by 3.7 percent, or 24,400 persons, since January 2001. The year-over-year growth in the number of jobless indicates that in January 2002, Idaho's economy had lost ground. On the other hand, the increase in the number of people with jobs from January 2001 reflects growth in some areas of the economy, but at a much slower rate than in 1999 or 2000.

AREA LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Labor force statistics are calculated for eight multi-county Labor Market Areas (LMA): Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Pocatello City MSA, Bonneville LMA, Cassia-Minidoka LMA, Idaho-Lewis LMA, Magic Valley LMA, Panhandle LMA, and Seaport LMA. The LMAs and their component counties are listed in State Table 1 on page 3.

While the statewide December unemployment rate was 5.7 percent, unemployment rates for some of the LMAs remained much higher. The Idaho-Lewis LMA, which is heavily dependent upon forest products industries, once again had the highest unemployment rate at 9.9 percent, seasonally adjusted. The addition of 45 unemployed persons pushed the January rate higher than December's rate of 9.3 percent. This is a good

example of how a change in the employment status of just a few people in a very small labor force can result in a relatively large change in the unemployment rate.

The Panhandle LMA, another northern Idaho region with a high unemployment rate in January—9.2 percent, seasonally adjusted—has the second largest labor force of all the LMAs. In December, the Panhandle unemployment rate was 9.0 percent, and in January 2001 it was one full percentage point lower at 8.2 percent. Forest products industries and *Mining* were depressed throughout 2001, and the September terrorist attacks had a negative effect on the area's tourism and business-related travel and meetings.

The state's largest LMA is the Boise City MSA. The January seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise MSA was 4.8 percent, slightly up from 4.7 in December. Compared to a year ago, Boise City MSA unemployment increased by two percentage points from 2.8 percent in January 2001. While the January 2002 rate was below the statewide average, the large number of layoffs in the electronics industry since March 2001 has had a dramatic impact on the rate. Even though there were 5,065 more Boise City MSA residents employed this year than last, the number of unemployed increased by a greater number — 5,208.

The Bonneville LMA, which includes Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, and Jefferson Counties, had a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.1 percent in January, the lowest amongst the LMAs. This unemployment rate was slightly above December's 4.0 percent level. One year ago, the LMA's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent. The Seaport and Magic Valley LMAs had nearly identical unemployment rates of 4.5 and 4.4 percent, respectively, in January. These rates were the same as for December 2001, but up from January 2001's rate of 4.3 percent and 4.1 percent, respectively.

COUNTY LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Five of Idaho's 44 counties had double-digit, seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in January 2002. This compares to six counties with these very high unemployment rates in December 2001, and four counties in January 2001. The five counties with January double-digit unemployment rates were Adams, Benewah, Clearwater, Idaho, and Shoshone. The first four counties rely on forest products as their employment base, while Shoshone County's is, or more accurately *was*, *Mining*. Clearwater County had the highest unemployment rate in the state at 15.1 percent, up from 13.0 percent in December 2001.

In January 2002, there were eight counties with an unemployment rate below 4.0 percent, and an additional nine counties had rates between 4.0 and 4.5 percent. With the exception of Latah County in northern Idaho, the counties with lower unemployment rates are in southern Idaho. By comparison, there were 11 counties with an unemployment rate below 4.0 percent in January 2001 and eight counties with a rate between 4.0 and 4.5 percent.

AGRICULTURE

January typically is a very slow month for agricultural employment. Field work is done, as weather permits, in preparation for the spring planting. Some growers own potato packing sheds that are operating, and other farm facilities have hired workers for harvest distribution. An estimated 26,440 persons had farm jobs in January, with 64.5 percent in the hired workers category.

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Idaho's agricultural producers were looking in two different places for signs of what to expect in the 2002 growing season. The first place was the sky, in the hope that continued winter weather would result in adequate water supplies for irrigation and affordable electricity to run the irrigation pumps. While January's weather added to the state's snow pack, the increase was somewhat small in most areas. Some water basins and north-eastern Idaho (along the Idaho-Wyoming border) have less than average snow packs for this time of the year. Late winter often brings one or two more heavy snow-falls, and these will be needed to assure good water supply for this year and hold over for next year.

Washington, D.C. was the other place Idaho's agricultural producers were watching. Both the House and Senate passed their versions of a new major farm bill that will set basic federal government agriculture policy for the next five years. It is reported that both houses and political parties have a lot of hard work to do to resolve their differences and pass legislation in time for the 2002 growing season for many crops.

The Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service recently released its 2001 Crop Production summary. According to the summary, potatoes topped the state's value of production list with a total value of \$691,092,000. All hay was second at \$573,465,000. All wheat's value is estimated at \$279,144,000. The 2002 value of sugar beets is not yet available, but in 2001 it was \$212,088,000. All of these major crops had a higher price per unit of production in 2001 than in 2000, although each crop's yield per acre was less than the year before. The summary publication is on the Internet at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/id/publications/recentpubs.htm>.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

The January 2002 estimate of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* is 3.2 percent less than the December 2001 count. This is the fourth consecutive month since September 2001 that current month estimates of Idaho *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were less than previous months. Between December and January, 18,300 jobs were lost. On the positive side, January's nonfarm job count, at 553,400, was 0.7 percent more than in January 2001. An additional 3,900 jobs were added from the previous year. State Table 2 on page 5 provides employment by industry and changes from both the previous month and one year ago.

January's loss of jobs from the previous month was widespread throughout Idaho's industries, with only a few industries adding jobs. *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 6,000 jobs, a 5.4 percent decline. *Service-Producing Industries* loss of 12,400 jobs was a 2.7 percent decline. Compared to a year ago, there were 7,000 fewer jobs in *Goods-Producing Industries*; yet, *Service-Producing Industries* had 10,900 more jobs in January 2002 than in January 2001. The January 2002 month-over-month drop in *Service-Producing Industry* jobs is even more striking because it is about three times the largest monthly loss of

State Table 1: January 2002 Labor Force (preliminary)

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
Seaport LMA	34,340	1,580	4.6	32,760
Nez Perce County	22,960	1,070	4.7	21,890
Asotin County, WA	11,380	510	4.5	10,870
Boise City MSA	251,010	11,960	4.8	239,050
Ada County	181,700	7,890	4.3	173,810
Canyon County	69,310	4,070	5.9	65,240
Pocatello City MSA*	41,340	2,570	6.2	38,770
Bonneville LMA	81,260	3,350	4.1	77,910
Bingham County	22,190	1,100	5.0	21,090
Bonneville County	47,090	1,750	3.7	45,340
Butte County	1,630	75	4.6	1,555
Jefferson County	10,350	420	4.1	9,930
Cassia-Minidoka LMA	20,060	1,400	7.0	18,660
Cassia County	9,920	650	6.6	9,270
Minidoka County	10,140	750	7.4	9,390
Idaho-Lewis LMA	7,750	770	9.9	6,980
Idaho County	6,190	630	10.2	5,560
Lewis County	1,565	135	8.6	1,430
Panhandle LMA	92,880	8,500	9.2	84,380
Benewah County	4,660	590	12.6	4,070
Bonner County	18,190	1,700	9.3	16,490
Boundary County	4,625	365	7.9	4,260
Kootenai County	58,460	5,040	8.6	53,420
Shoshone County	6,950	810	11.6	6,140
Magic Valley LMA	52,110	2,300	4.4	49,810
Gooding County	7,230	270	3.7	6,960
Jerome County	9,735	415	4.3	9,320
Twin Falls County	35,160	1,620	4.6	33,540
Adams County	1,640	230	14.1	1,410
Bear Lake County	2,930	160	5.5	2,770
Blaine County	12,460	470	3.8	11,990
Boise County	2,420	120	4.9	2,300
Camas County	445	15	3.0	430
Caribou County	3,510	230	6.6	3,280
Clark County	800	30	4.1	770
Clearwater County	3,760	570	15.1	3,190
Custer County	2,210	175	7.9	2,035
Elmore County	10,045	650	6.4	9,395
Franklin County	5,160	230	4.4	4,930
Fremont County	4,870	310	6.4	4,560
Gem County	6,700	620	9.3	6,080
Latah County	15,290	590	3.9	14,700
Lemhi County	3,750	280	7.5	3,470
Lincoln County	2,120	115	5.4	2,005
Madison County	12,050	240	2.0	11,810
Oneida County	1,790	70	3.9	1,720
Owyhee County	4,170	190	4.5	3,980
Payette County	10,195	915	9.0	9,280
Power County	3,530	270	7.7	3,260
Teton County	3,930	150	3.8	3,780
Valley County	4,100	340	8.2	3,760
Washington County	4,580	400	8.7	4,180
State of Idaho	691,570	39,270	5.7	652,300
Idaho Cities				
Boise	114,350	4,730	4.1	109,620
Coeur d'Alene	20,480	1,310	6.4	19,170
Idaho Falls	28,980	1,070	3.7	27,910
Lewiston	19,550	770	3.9	18,780
Nampa	21,040	1,235	5.9	19,805
Pocatello	29,550	1,750	5.9	27,800
Twin Falls	18,290	840	4.6	17,450

* Pocatello MSA includes all of Bannock County.

jobs that occurred in this series during 2001. The largest monthly jobs loss happened between June 2001 and July 2001 when 4,100 jobs were lost.

There was no positive growth in the three sectors of the *Goods-Producing Industries*. *Mining* lost more than 100 jobs from December 2001 to January 2002, a continuation of the decline of this industry in Idaho. Lay-offs and closures during 2001 resulted in a 500 over-the-year job loss. Even if mineral prices shot upward, it would take some time for Idaho's mines to increase production and add jobs. Between December and January, *Construction* suffered a 12.2 percent decline, or 4,400 fewer jobs. About 58 percent of the job loss occurred in the *Special Trade Contractors* category. This rapid drop in the number of *Construction* jobs was due to weather, holiday-related downtime, and project completions. There were reports of a slight slowdown in housing starts. Available housing inventory is strong and the sale of existing housing set a new record nationally. This accounts for the monthly decline, as well as the year-over-year decline of 800 jobs.

Manufacturing is Idaho's largest sector within the *Goods-Producing Industries* and is the one most affected by the national recession. As has been the case for several months, there was another monthly job loss in the *Manufacturing* industries: 1,400 jobs for a 1.9 percent decline. All of the industry groups either lost jobs or were unchanged from December 2001. Although there was some job loss in the two electronic manufacturing industries, the percentage loss was less than the state's average for all nonfarm jobs and for *Manufacturing*. The national recession, along with some company buy-outs and changes in business strategy, accounted for the year-over-year decreases of 1,400 jobs in computer and peripherals manufacturing and 2,200 jobs in memory chip and other components manufacturing.

The 2.7 percent job loss from December 2001 to January 2002 in *Service-Producing Industries* was below the average for all jobs and well below the decline rate within *Goods-Producing Industries*. Still, 12,300 jobs were lost in one month's time. Two industries had the greatest job losses within the private sector. *Retail Trade* lost 4,700 jobs and *Business Services* lost 1,700 jobs. While all aspects of *Retail Trade* were down, businesses that rely upon holiday shopping and celebrating were especially hard hit. The decline in *Business Services* centered on firms that provide temporary help to other businesses. The lingering effects of the September terrorist attacks were still being felt in the tourism-related industries, particularly *Hotels and Other Lodging Places*, which had monthly and year-over-year job losses.

Idaho's *Health Services* and the state's schools continued to be a long-term source of new jobs with strong year-over-year job gains. As long as Idaho's population

continues to increase both totally and demographically, these industries will continue to add jobs.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT: A LONGER-TERM VIEW

It was reported often last year in this newsletter that the Idaho economy, as measured by employment, was slowing down with job losses in key Idaho industries. During the years 1990 through 2000, annual average *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased each year. The same statistic for 2001 shows a modest increase in jobs from 2000, so the long-term trend of employment gains was not broken. However, the growth trend was broken for *Goods-Producing Industries*, a sector which also had yearly increases.

The table below provides summary *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* since 1989, including yearly numerical and percentage changes. Since that time there have been dramatic changes—both up and down—in the yearly growth rates. Idaho's economic expansion has not been a smooth, upward glide, but rather a path with a few bumps on it.

Year	Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	Percent Change From Prior Year	Goods-Producing Industries	Percent Change From Prior Year	Service-Producing Industries	Percent Change From Prior Year
1989	366,169		80,381		285,787	
1990	385,403	5.3	85,501	6.4	299,903	4.9
1991	398,084	3.3	86,452	1.1	311,631	3.9
1992	416,604	4.7	90,494	4.7	326,110	4.6
1993	436,815	4.9	96,138	6.2	340,677	4.5
1994	461,386	5.6	103,310	7.5	358,076	5.1
1995	477,414	3.5	103,386	0.1	374,028	4.5
1996	491,863	3.0	106,575	3.1	385,288	3.0
1997	508,813	3.4	109,517	2.8	399,296	3.6
1998	521,583	2.5	111,242	1.6	410,341	2.8
1999	539,681	3.5	113,955	2.4	425,726	3.7
2000	559,255	3.6	116,026	1.8	443,229	4.1
2001	568,698	1.7	115,302	-0.6	453,396	2.3
1990-2000		45.1		35.7		47.8
1990-2001		47.6		34.9		51.2

Historical *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* data is available on the Idaho Department of Labor's Internet site at <http://www.labor.state.id.us> or on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' site at <http://stats.bls.gov/sae/home.htm>.

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State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	Jan 2002*	Dec 2001	Jan 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	553,400	571,700	549,500	-3.2	0.7
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	104,700	110,700	111,700	-5.4	-6.3
Mining	1,500	1,700	2,100	-11.8	-28.6
Metal Mining	500	500	1,000	-	-50.0
Construction	31,800	36,200	32,600	-12.2	-2.5
Manufacturing	71,400	72,800	77,000	-1.9	-7.3
Durable Goods	43,400	44,200	48,200	-1.8	-10.0
Lumber & Wood Products	10,800	11,300	11,800	-4.4	-8.5
Logging	2,000	2,300	2,300	-13.0	-13.0
Sawmills & Planing Mills	4,000	4,100	4,600	-2.4	-13.0
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,100	1,100	1,000	0.0	10.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	3,700	3,800	3,900	-2.6	-5.1
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products	1,400	1,400	1,400	-	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products, exc. Machinery & Transportation Equip.	2,900	2,900	3,000	-	-3.3
Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment	9,300	9,400	10,700	-1.1	-13.1
Electronic & Other Electrical Equip. & Components, Exc., Computer	13,200	13,400	15,400	-1.5	-14.3
Transportation Equipment	2,100	2,100	2,200	-	-4.5
Other Durable Goods	3,700	3,700	3,700	-	0.0
Nondurable Goods	28,000	28,600	28,800	-2.1	-2.8
Food Processing	16,900	17,100	16,900	-1.2	0.0
Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables & Food Specialties	9,100	9,200	9,200	-1.1	-1.1
Paper Products	2,100	2,200	2,200	-4.5	-4.5
Printing, Publishing & Allied Products	5,000	5,100	5,300	-2.0	-5.7
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,000	2,300	2,300	-13.0	-13.0
Other Nondurable Goods	2,000	1,900	2,100	5.3	-4.8
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	448,700	461,000	437,800	-2.7	2.5
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	27,000	27,800	27,800	-2.9	-2.9
Transportation	17,000	17,800	17,500	-4.5	-2.9
Railroad	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing	10,000	10,400	10,300	-3.8	-2.9
Communications	6,000	6,000	6,500	-	-7.7
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	4,000	4,000	3,800	-	5.3
Trade	137,000	142,300	137,900	-3.7	-0.7
Wholesale Trade	31,300	31,900	31,600	-1.9	-0.9
Durable Goods	14,600	14,800	14,800	-1.4	-1.4
Nondurable Goods	16,700	17,100	16,800	-2.3	-0.6
Retail Trade	105,700	110,400	106,300	-4.3	-0.6
Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply & Manuf. Home Dealers	6,100	6,400	6,000	-4.7	1.7
General Merchandise Stores	13,300	14,600	13,700	-8.9	-2.9
Food Stores	18,300	18,800	18,500	-2.7	-1.1
Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	12,100	12,400	11,800	-2.4	2.5
Eating & Drinking Places	36,600	37,500	36,100	-2.4	1.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	24,500	24,800	23,300	-1.2	5.2
Banking	7,300	7,400	7,100	-1.4	2.8
Services	149,900	152,600	143,200	-1.8	4.7
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7,400	7,700	7,700	-3.9	-3.9
Personal Services	4,300	4,400	4,500	-2.3	-4.4
Business Services	29,600	31,300	27,800	-5.4	6.5
Amusement and Recreation Services	7,000	6,700	6,500	4.5	7.7
Health Services	39,300	39,200	36,900	0.3	6.5
Hospitals	13,500	13,500	12,600	0.0	7.1
Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services	19,600	19,400	18,700	1.0	4.8
Government	110,300	113,500	105,600	-2.8	4.5
Federal Government	12,300	12,500	12,100	-1.6	1.7
State & Local Government	98,000	101,000	93,500	-3.0	4.8
State Government	27,100	29,800	26,200	-9.1	3.4
Education	12,400	14,800	11,300	-16.2	9.7
Administration	14,700	15,000	14,900	-2.0	-1.3
Local Government	70,900	71,200	67,300	-0.4	5.3
Education	40,000	40,800	38,800	-2.0	3.1
Administration	30,900	30,400	28,500	1.6	8.4

* Preliminary Estimate

** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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State Table 3: Economic Indicators

State Table C: Economic Indicators

	Jan 2002	Dec 2001	Jan 2001	% Change From					
				Last Month	Last Year				
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾									
Seasonally Adjusted									
Civilian Labor Force	691,600	693,300	667,200	-0.2	3.7				
Unemployment	39,300	37,900	30,100	3.7	30.6				
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	5.7	5.5	4.5						
Total Employment	652,300	655,400	637,100	-0.5	2.4				
Unadjusted									
Civilian Labor Force	680,700	690,300	656,500	-1.4	3.7				
Unemployment	47,000	40,600	37,900	15.8	24.0				
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	6.9	5.9	5.8						
Total Employment	633,700	649,700	618,600	-2.5	2.4				
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾	5.6	5.8	4.2						
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾									
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	173.2	172.9	171.7	0.2	0.9				
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	177.1	176.7	175.1	0.2	1.1				
AGRICULTURE									
Agriculture Employment	26,440	28,360	25,740	-6.8	2.7				
Operators	9,010	9,010	9,010	0.0	0.0				
Unpaid Family	360	410	350	-12.2	2.9				
Hired Workers	17,070	18,940	16,380	-9.9	4.2				
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE									
Claims Activities									
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	15,743	18,919	13,455	-16.8	17.0				
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	124,202	114,194	104,480	8.8	18.9				
Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾									
Weeks Compensated	120,606	72,978	85,239	65.3	41.5				
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$27,149,443	\$16,141,326	\$18,061,455	68.2	50.3				
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$225.11	\$221.18	\$211.89	1.8	6.2				
Covered Employers	40,474	40,459	39,113	0.0	3.5				
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$158,717,564	\$149,629,576	\$111,738,217	6.1	42.0				
(1) Preliminary Estimate									
(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics									
(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims									
(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent									
(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities									
HOURS AND EARNINGS									
	Average Weekly Earnings*			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan 2002	Dec 2001	Jan 2001	Jan 2002	Dec 2001	Jan 2001	Jan 2002	Dec 2001	Jan 2001
Mining	\$618.09	\$622.80	\$605.60	37.1	37.7	40.0	\$16.66	\$16.52	\$15.14
Construction	\$578.55	\$604.77	\$553.11	33.5	35.1	35.8	\$17.27	\$17.23	\$15.45
Total Manufacturing	\$560.74	\$594.65	\$586.82	36.2	37.9	39.2	\$15.49	\$15.69	\$14.97
Lumber & Wood Products	\$513.97	\$570.02	\$485.98	35.3	37.7	34.2	\$14.56	\$15.12	\$14.21
Food & Kindred Products	\$456.30	\$461.38	\$468.83	39.0	39.3	39.9	\$11.70	\$11.74	\$11.75
Communications	\$757.24	\$799.85	\$757.27	40.3	41.4	43.1	\$18.79	\$19.32	\$17.57
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	\$813.31	\$859.31	\$881.57	38.4	39.4	39.8	\$21.18	\$21.81	\$22.15
Trade	\$323.16	\$333.51	\$303.88	28.7	30.1	28.4	\$11.26	\$11.08	\$10.70
Wholesale Trade	\$511.91	\$503.75	\$507.04	35.5	35.5	34.8	\$14.42	\$14.19	\$14.57
Retail Trade	\$268.07	\$289.30	\$250.18	26.7	28.7	26.7	\$10.04	\$10.08	\$9.37
DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS									
* These average earnings are computed on a gross basis and reflect changes in premium pay for overtime and late shift work as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive wage.									



PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Panhandle's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose from 9.0 percent in December to 9.2 percent in January. Job losses in lumber, mining, electronics, tourism, and catalog companies during 2001 caused income losses that led to job losses in the last few months at retail stores, wholesale operations, transportation facilities, and some service businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. All five Panhandle counties are suffering high unemployment as a result of the recession. In January, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Benewah County was 12.6 percent; in Bonner, 9.3 percent; in Boundary, 7.9 percent; in Kootenai, 8.6 percent; and in Shoshone, 11.6 percent.

Despite the high level of unemployment, January brought some good developments that should ease unemployment in February. These developments included the opening of a second Center Partners call center in Kootenai County, the opening of a Wal-Mart Supercenter in Post Falls, and the relocation of Oxyfresh Worldwide from Spokane to Coeur d'Alene. Together, these developments created about 740 jobs. Another sign of hope was a slowing in the rate of increase in unemployment insurance claims. In the fourth quarter of 2001, initial unemployment claims filed in the five Panhandle Job Service offices were 41.5 percent higher than in the fourth quarter of 2000. In January and February 2002, they were 5.4 percent higher than in January and February 2001.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Benewah County

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe is building a \$600,000, 8,500-square-foot facility for its fish and wildlife programs next to the tribe's Benewah Medical & Wellness Center in Plummer. Forty people work for the tribe's fish and wildlife programs currently housed in the old tribal headquarters outside Plummer. The tribe's fish and wildlife programs have grown during recent years. Part of the growth stemmed from last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	Jan 2002*	Dec 2001	Jan 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	92,880	91,480	88,510	1.8	5.2
Unemployed	8,500	8,270	6,910	3.0	23.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.2	9.0	7.8		
Total Employment	84,380	83,210	81,600	1.7	3.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	92,180	91,990	87,880	0.5	5.2
Unemployed	10,650	9,230	9,090	15.7	17.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	11.6%	10.0%	10.3%		
Total Employment	81,530	82,760	78,790	-1.2	3.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	65,560	67,000	64,130	-2.1	2.2
Goods-Producing Industries	12,550	13,450	13,700	-6.7	-8.4
Mining	530	570	930	-7.0	-43.0
Construction	3,760	4,540	3,920	-17.2	-4.1
Manufacturing	8,260	8,340	8,850	-1.0	-6.7
Lumber & Wood Products	3,980	4,090	4,190	-2.7	-5.0
All Other Manufacturing	4,280	4,250	4,660	0.7	-8.2
Service-Producing Industries	53,010	53,550	50,430	-1.0	5.1
Transportation	1,420	1,510	1,390	-6.0	2.2
Communication & Utilities	1,060	1,060	1,080	0.0	-1.9
Wholesale Trade	2,070	2,100	2,090	-1.4	-1.0
Retail Trade	14,190	14,630	14,130	-3.0	0.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2,680	2,660	2,450	0.8	9.4
Service & Miscellaneous	17,320	17,220	15,380	0.6	12.6
Government Administration	8,790	8,850	8,440	-0.7	4.1
Government Education	5,480	5,520	5,470	-0.7	0.2
* Preliminary estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

establishing the tribe's ownership of the southern third of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Bonner County

- Madeline McClelland recently opened an antique and collectible store called Madeline's Corner on the second floor of Foster's Crossing Antique and Country Market at Fifth and Cedar in Sandpoint.

Boundary County

- David Koon, M.D., opened Boundary County's first urgent care and women's clinic at 6843 Main Street in Bonners Ferry in mid-February. The walk-in facility includes three exam rooms.

Kootenai County

- The University of Idaho Research Park in Post Falls recently announced that the Center for Advanced Microelectronics and Biomolecular Research is moving from the University of New Mexico to Post Falls in August. The center, which originally began at the University of Idaho in Moscow making computer chips for NASA, moved to New Mexico in 1992. The center's founder, electronics engineering professor Gary

Maki, now develops bioelectronic sensors for detecting diseases or poisons for medical and antiterrorism purposes. The center, which currently employs 15 people, will occupy one-sixth of the first building at the University of Idaho Research Park near Riverbend Commerce Park and the factory outlets. Local economic development experts view the center, which has the potential to create many more jobs in the next few years, as a vital element in their effort to turn the Interstate 90 corridor between Spokane and Coeur d'Alene into a high-tech corridor.

- An \$11 million expansion and renovation of Coeur d'Alene High School, which began in 2001, is scheduled to be completed this fall. The 50,000-square-foot expansion includes a second gymnasium. The school's 1,300 students continue to attend classes there despite the construction.
- The Greyhound Park in Post Falls is being transformed into an all-entertainment events center. Since dog races ended at its track in 1995, the park facility primarily offers simulcast races and bingo games. The facility also occasionally hosts larger events such as the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's annual powwow. BMW Construction, of Coeur d'Alene, will begin renovating the facility and building a 40-foot by 60-foot concert stage in early May. After construction is completed in mid-June, the events center will be able to host up to 8,000 people for concerts and other events.
- Realtor Marshall Mend and builder Art Elliott plan to break ground on a \$2 million, 20,000-square-foot office and retail development on the northwest corner of Government Way and Orchard Avenue in Hayden this spring. Hayden Village is expected to be ready for tenants by this fall.
- Western Garnet International Ltd. is moving its corporate headquarters from 1836 Northwest Boulevard in Coeur d'Alene to the second floor of the Riverstone One Building. Western Garnet shares the building with Oxyfresh Worldwide, which relocated its corporate headquarters from Spokane to Coeur d'Alene in January. Riverstone is a mixed-use development between the Spokane River and Northwest Boulevard. Western Garnet employs seven people at its corporate headquarters, 50 people at the Emerald Creek Garnet in Benewah County, and 100 more people in India, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, and Seattle.
- Bill and Jane Scott plan to open a restaurant and nightclub in the historic Penney's building in downtown Coeur d'Alene by late spring. The Brix restaurant on the second floor will feature steaks, seafood, and pasta. The Brix nightclub, which will seat more than 100 people, will occupy the lower level, and an office will occupy the mezzanine.
- Developer Marshall Chesrown initially is offering 91 residential lots at his Black Rock development near Rockford Bay on Lake Coeur d'Alene. Another 150 will be offered next summer. In total, Chesrown ex-

pects to sell 381 lots at the high-end development on 650 acres. Work continues on the development's 18-hole golf course, slated to open in the summer of 2003.

- A group of Coeur d'Alene doctors, in partnership with Chicago-based National Surgical Hospital Inc., plans to build an \$18 million surgical hospital in Post Falls. The North Idaho Surgical Hospital, which will include four operating rooms and twelve inpatient rooms, is expected to perform about 350 non-emergency surgical procedures per month. When the surgical hospital opens on Mullan Road in the summer of 2003, it will employ about 70 people. Most of the doctors investing in the new surgical hospital are affiliated with the much smaller North Idaho Day Surgery & Laser Center at 2205 North Ironwood Place, which they expect to close once the Post Falls hospital opens.
- Coeur d'Alene recently welcomed these new businesses: Hard Hat Café, a restaurant serving burgers, sausages, sandwiches, and breakfast at 612 Sherman Avenue; a Pizza Hot Spot, making pizza for carry-out at 4055 Government Way; a branch office of Spokane-based insurance brokerage Moloney O'Neill at 7950 Meadowlark; Cobblestone Art, a fine art reproduction shop at 6055 Government Way; Groundzero Board Shop, selling and renting skateboards, snowboards, other sport boards, clothing, and accessories at 1114 Fourth Street; and a second Sonja's Cleaner by Nature, an environmentally conscious clothes cleaning business in the former Westco Martinizing building on Third Street.
- The Coeur d'Alenes Co.—a Spokane-based metals distributing, processing, and fabricating business—recently opened a retail distribution center at 80 West Wilbur in Dalton Gardens where it will sell milled steel, aluminum sheeting, Italian-made wrought-iron, and related products.
- Primerica Financial, a subsidiary of Citigroup, recently opened a financial services office at 306 North Spokane Street in Post Falls.
- Falling precious metal prices during recent years and the sale of its kaolin clay and industrial minerals division in 2001 reduced employment at Hecla Mining's corporate headquarters in Coeur d'Alene to 36 people, half as many people as it employed two years ago. Hecla recently sold its corporate headquarters at 6500 Mineral Drive to a Bellevue, Washington, company. Hecla is leasing half of the building, while other tenants will lease the rest of the building.
- Applebee's 15-month-old restaurant in Post Falls closed in January, putting 22 people out of work.

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SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2002 increased to 4.6 percent from December's rate of 4.4 percent, as shown in Seaport Table 1. In January 2001, the rate was 4.3 percent. Total employment in January decreased by 170 jobs pushing employment in Nez Perce and Asotin Counties below the 2001 monthly average of 33,047. Two situations that usually contribute to decreased employment in January are reductions in staff after the holiday season and the slowdown of outdoor work because of winter weather. The *Civilian Labor Force*, which is the total of those employed and unemployed, decreased by 90. This decrease suggests that, at least in January, the labor force and the economy tightened.

In January, Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased by 510 from December 2001 and decreased 470 from January 2001. The decrease from December was expected and follows trends for December to January data. The decrease from January of last year continues a trend of decreasing employment that started in the first quarter of 2001. Usually, in the situation of monthly decreases, an industry or two can be pinpointed as the cause. However, in this case all industries decreased suggesting a market decrease. With employment diminishing in neighboring communities, the Lewiston/Clarkston market is feeling the pinch.

SPECIAL TOPIC

Labor Force

In the January 2002 issue of this newsletter we analyzed labor force data for 2001 and 2000. At the time of publication we projected 2001 data. Since then we've finalized data for 2001, and it is included on the FYI Table 3 on page 24. A short updated analysis by county is included below.

Clearwater County: The *Civilian Labor Force* decreased in 2001, again. The closure of the Jaype Mill in Pierce and the

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Washington

	Jan 2002*	Dec 2001	Jan 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,340	34,430	34,650	-0.3	-0.9
Unemployment	1,580	1,500	1,490	5.3	6.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.4	4.3	0.2	-0.3
Total Employment	32,760	32,930	33,160	-0.5	-1.2
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,460	34,510	34,790	-0.1	-0.9
Unemployment	1,990	1,560	1,940	27.6	2.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.8	4.5	5.6	1.3	-0.2
Total Employment	32,470	32,950	32,850	-1.5	-1.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	24,900	25,410	25,370	-2.0	-1.9
Goods-Producing Industries	4,940	5,010	5,030	-1.4	-1.8
Mining & Construction	1,190	1,260	1,150	-5.6	3.5
Manufacturing	3,750	3,750	3,880	0.0	-3.4
Food Processing	70	70	100	0.0	-30.0
Lumber & Wood Products	700	690	720	1.4	-2.8
Paper Products	1,690	1,700	1,720	-0.6	-1.7
All Other Manufacturing	1,290	1,290	1,340	0.0	-3.7
Service-Producing Industries	19,960	20,400	20,340	-2.2	-1.9
Transportation	1,380	1,360	1,400	1.5	-1.4
Communications & Utilities	270	270	300	0.0	-10.0
Wholesale Trade	900	940	940	-4.3	-4.3
Retail Trade	4,730	4,870	4,970	-2.9	-4.8
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,380	1,390	1,400	-0.7	-1.4
Services	6,380	6,390	6,490	-0.2	-1.7
Government Administration	2,720	2,700	2,560	0.7	6.3
Government Education	2,200	2,480	2,280	-11.3	-3.5
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

elimination of 225 high paying jobs produced the highest unemployment rate in the state. Unfortunately, this is the second year that Clearwater County has held that distinction.

Idaho County: Total employment increased in 2001, by 165, from 2000. Idaho County's economy has lost over 280 jobs from the 1994 record of 5,941. In addition to losses in *Lumber Manufacturing*, jobs in *Government* decreased because of cutbacks at the U.S. Forest Service. In *Agriculture*, a major industry, the number of jobs is just one-third of what it was 20 years ago.

Latah County: Latah County has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Idaho at 3.3 percent. Employment peaked at 15,707 in 1995 because of growth in *Trade* and *Services*. However, since 1995, employment has decreased 9.2 percent. A significant economic indicator for Latah County is the size of the student population at the University of Idaho. Student enrollment is expected to increase through the year 2002, but state budget concerns may decrease employment at the U of I in 2002.

Lewis County: Total employment in 2001 increased from 2000, but by only 43 jobs. Employment peaked in 1996 at 1,534 because of increases in *Construction*. *Construction* increased because low land prices allowed people to build houses in Lewis County and commute to work in Lewiston. However, since 1996, employment has decreased 9.0 percent.

Nez Perce & Asotin Counties (Seaport): In Nez Perce and Asotin Counties, the *Civilian Labor Force* increased slightly in 2001. Total employment increased 298, which decreased the unemployment rate in 2001 to 4.2 percent.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Idaho & Lewis County

- Best Western Salmon Rapids Lodge recently received the Best Western Chairman's Award. This is the hotel chain's highest honor for outstanding quality standards. The Chairman's Award recognizes Best Western International hotels with a cleanliness and inspection score of 1,000 out of a possible 1,000. Hotels also must meet Best Western's requirements for design and high customer service scores to qualify for the award. Located at the confluence of the Little Salmon and Salmon Rivers on U.S. 95 near Riggins, the hotel opened in May 2000. The hotel has 55 rooms, a large indoor pool, an outdoor spa, and two-story lobby.
- Idaho Sewing for Sports, Inc., located near Grangeville, gained national recognition as a supplier for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. The company manufactured safety pads used along the outer perimeter of the ice for the long track and short track speed skating, as well as padding below bleachers and near stairs. In addition, Idaho Sewing padded the benches where the skaters sit to put on their skates and the padding at the finish areas of a variety of ski and snowboarding venues.
- Clark's Cabin, operated by Susan and Bob Jesse of Fenn, supplied several hundred bags of their hand-made kettle corn for distribution at the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Through an arrangement with the Idaho Department of Agriculture, the product was included in a media package that was given to 200 top media personnel from the U.S. and around the world. "We are very proud to be able to represent the city of Grangeville, Idaho County and the State of Idaho at the 2002 Winter Olympics," Bob said. He added, "With the upcoming Lewis-Clark Bicentennial now less than a year away, we're hoping to get this part of the trail exposed as early as possible."

Clearwater

- The High Country Inn opened in February near Orofino. Patterned after a Northwest Lodge, the Inn has a large teaching and professional kitchen, a great room with a stone fireplace, and two sitting areas. The fine sitting room is decorated with tapestry, velour and leather; the rustic sitting room features peeled log rockers, glider, chairs, and half-log benches. Between the

sitting areas is the dining area. The new Inn has space to accommodate weddings and reunions, with indoor capacity for receptions of about 75 people and outdoor space on the deck and grounds for another 50 or more.

Latah County

- The University of Idaho's signature musical event, the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, brings in more than \$4 million to the regional economy annually, says a university study recently released. The annual event took place February 20-23. "Ticket sales were figured in, but that is not where the big impact comes from," said Steven Peterson of the Center for Business Development and Entrepreneurship in the UI College of Business and Economics. The study includes the impacts of the festival on Latah, Whitman, Asotin and Nez Perce Counties. The 18,000 students and 2,000 others visiting Moscow and spending their money in local shops, restaurants, and hotels are where the \$1 million per day comes from, Peterson said. "During festival week, there are virtually no lodgings available from Colfax to Clarkston, and every appropriate space on campus and in the community is used for concerts, competitions, workshops, food services, and related hospitality." The study determined festival-related spending was \$4.09 million. The festival also is responsible for the creation of 125 jobs and generates \$1.6 million in earnings for regional employees annually, the study claims. "We did not include local spending in that," Peterson said. "We only counted new money. The figures are conservative."

Nez Perce and Asotin (WA) Counties

- One of the largest cruise lines stopping in the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley will debut a new vessel in 2003, doubling the number of passengers it brings to the area. American West Steamboat Co. will begin building the Empress of the North in the first half of 2002. The announcement comes at a time when American West Steamboat Co.'s chief competitor, American Classic Voyages, announced in the fall it was voluntarily reorganizing under Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Both company's boats brought in an estimated \$2.6 million in 2001 to the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley for jet boat trips, fuel, laundry, utilities, and docking. American Classic Voyages had been operating the 160-passenger Columbia Queen since 2000 on a route similar to that of the Queen of the West. The last time it docked in Clarkston was on October 17. The Empress of the North will make between 20 and 25 stops in Clarkston in the spring, fall, and winter. The trips will originate in Portland. It will spend the summer based in Seattle, plying the waters of the Inside Passage of Canada and Alaska.

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TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 4.8 percent for January 2002, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was up one-tenth of a percentage point from December 2001's rate of 4.7 percent, and up one and nine-tenths of a percentage point from January 2001's rate of 2.9 percent. The number of individuals employed decreased from December to January by 1,400 individuals, while an increase of 200 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 11,800 in December to 12,000 in January. The decrease in the number employed and the increase in the number unemployed created a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 1,200 individuals from December 2001 to January 2002; year-over-year, there was a net increase of 10,400 individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the January 2002 labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: January 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	181,700	7,890	4.3	173,810
Adams	1,640	230	14.1	1,410
Boise	2,420	120	4.9	2,300
Canyon	69,310	4,070	5.9	65,240
Elmore	10,045	650	6.4	9,395
Gem	6,700	620	9.3	6,080
Owyhee	4,170	190	4.5	3,980
Payette	10,195	915	9.0	9,280
Valley	4,100	340	8.2	3,760
Washington	4,580	400	8.7	4,180
Statewide	691,570	39,270	5.7	652,300

Nearly 7,200 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were lost in the Boise City MSA between December 2001 and January 2002, with an increase of 700 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* since January 2001. In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a loss of 1,400 jobs month-over-month with job losses in

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon counties**

	Jan 2002*	Dec 2001	Jan 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	251,700	252,900	241,300	-0.5	4.3
Unemployment	12,000	11,800	7,000	1.7	71.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	4.7	2.9		
Total Employment	239,700	241,100	234,300	-0.6	2.3
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	249,800	253,500	239,000	-1.5	4.5
Unemployment	14,100	12,400	8,700	13.7	62.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.6	4.9	3.6		
Total Employment	235,700	241,100	230,300	-2.2	2.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	225,400	232,600	224,700	-3.1	0.3
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	50,300	51,700	53,100	-2.7	-5.3
Mining & Construction	15,400	16,400	15,300	-6.1	0.7
Manufacturing	34,900	35,300	37,800	-1.1	-7.7
Durable Goods	26,600	26,900	29,500	-1.1	-9.8
Lumber & Wood Products	3,000	3,100	3,000	-3.2	0.0
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	700	800	800	-12.5	-12.5
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,300	2,300	2,200	0.0	4.5
Fabricated Metal Products	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	7,400	7,400	8,400	0.0	-11.9
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	11,600	11,800	13,200	-1.7	-12.1
Transportation Equipment	1,600	1,700	1,800	-5.9	-11.1
Other Durable Goods	1,900	1,800	1,900	5.6	0.0
Nondurable Goods	8,300	8,400	8,300	-1.2	0.0
Food Processing	5,600	5,700	5,500	-1.8	1.8
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,600	1,600	1,500	0.0	6.7
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	800	900	0.0	-11.1
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	175,100	180,900	171,600	-3.2	2.0
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	11,900	12,100	12,200	-1.7	-2.5
Transportation	6,700	6,900	6,800	-2.9	-1.5
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,200	5,200	5,400	0.0	-3.7
Trade	55,400	57,500	55,000	-3.7	0.7
Wholesale Trade	12,500	12,600	12,800	-0.8	-2.3
Durable Goods	7,700	7,700	7,800	0.0	-1.3
Nondurable Goods	4,800	4,900	5,000	-2.0	-4.0
Retail Trade	42,900	44,900	42,200	-4.5	1.7
General Merchandise Stores	5,600	6,200	5,400	-9.7	3.7
Foods Stores	7,500	7,600	7,400	-1.3	1.4
Eating & Drinking Places	15,100	15,600	14,700	-3.2	2.7
Other Retail Trade	14,700	15,500	14,700	-5.2	0.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,600	11,800	11,200	-1.7	3.6
Services	61,200	62,800	59,800	-2.5	2.3
Business Services	13,900	15,100	15,400	-7.9	-9.7
Health Services	18,900	18,900	17,500	0.0	8.0
Hospitals	8,900	8,900	8,100	0.0	9.9
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	5,200	5,100	4,900	2.0	6.1
Other Services	23,200	23,700	22,000	-2.1	5.5
Government	35,000	36,700	33,400	-4.6	4.8
Federal Government	5,000	5,300	4,900	-5.7	2.0
State Government	12,500	13,800	12,200	-9.4	2.5
Education	3,600	4,800	3,400	-25.0	5.9
Administration	8,900	9,000	8,800	-1.1	1.1
Local Government	17,500	17,600	16,300	-0.6	7.4
Education	11,500	11,700	10,800	-1.7	6.5
Administration	6,000	5,900	5,500	1.7	9.1

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Construction & Mining (1,000) *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing* (100), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (200), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100), and *Food Processing Manufacturing* (100) outpacing job gains in *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100) to create the net decrease. Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 2,800 jobs with *Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes Manufacturing* (100), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (1,000), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (1,600), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (200), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100) outpacing job gains in *Construction & Mining* (100), *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100), and *Food Processing Manufacturing* (100). The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in that industry since January 2001.

Service-Producing Industries lost 5,800 jobs between December 2001 and January 2002. Job decreases in *Transportation* (200), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (600), *Food Stores* (100), *Eating & Drinking Places* (500), *Other Retail Trade* (800), *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* (200), *Business Services* (1,200), *Other Services* (500), *Federal Government* (300), *State Government Education* (1,200), *State Government Administration* (100), and *Local Government Education* (200) outpaced job gains in *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (100), and *Local Government Administration* (100) to create the net decrease in the number of jobs in the Boise City MSA over the month. Over the past year, there was an increase of 3,500 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with *Transportation, Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services; Durable Goods Trade; Nondurable Goods Trade; and Business Services* the only industries to experience job losses. The most notable job gains over the year were noted in *Health Services* (1,400), primarily *Hospitals* (800), and *Other Services* (1,200).

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- Jim Tomlinson and First United Methodist Church entered into a joint venture to create a \$16.5 million, 148,000-square-foot parking and apartment complex on the corner of Eleventh and Hays Streets in Boise. Cathedral Place will include 176 market-rate apartments, mostly one-bedroom units, as well as 600 parking spaces. The vision of this project is to address two core problems, the lack of parking around the Cathedral of the Rockies, and the fact that increasing numbers of people are moving away from downtown Boise. Construction financing has not

been finalized on the project and a zoning change is needed to proceed. Tentative plans for the project are for construction to begin in spring 2003 and to be completed in fall 2004.

- Site preparation has begun in Boise along Front Street at Broadway Avenue for Idaho Place, a new higher education complex that will include the University of Idaho and Idaho State University Treasure Valley Programs. The \$140 million, 535,154-square-foot campus also will house a water research facility, an office, and retail space. Construction is scheduled to begin this spring and conclude in 2003.
- WhiteWater Pizza & Pasta opened in the Meridian Crossroads Shopping Plaza in February. The restaurant features gourmet pizzas, pasta dishes, sandwiches, salads, appetizers, desserts, beer, wine, and other beverages. The restaurant is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Carry out, take-and-bake pizzas, and delivery within a three-mile radius (for orders more than \$10) is offered from 11 a.m. until closing.
- George's Cycles held a grand opening in February for its newest store on the corner of East First Street and Pine in Meridian. The business offers a full range of mountain bikes, kids' bikes, family bikes, road bikes, BMXs, three-wheelers, cruisers, recumbent bikes, clothing, accessories, trailers, treadmills, home gyms, and exercise bikes.
- The Pine Business Center, located at 211 East Pine Avenue in downtown Meridian, celebrated its grand opening in early February. The businesses located in the Business Center include: Snake River Management, whose goal is to enhance the aesthetic appeal of a subdivision while maintaining the fiscal management of the homeowners' association; Clear Choices Skin Care & Electrolysis, which offers electrolysis as well as a variety of other services; Mountain West Business Solutions, which connects customers with technology and is designed to meet all customer cartridge, printing, and printer servicing needs; and Penton Law Offices, which specializes in helping small businesses survive and thrive.
- A new science center will be built on a 10-acre parcel of land owned by the Meridian School District in a joint venture between the Meridian School District and the Boise Parks and Recreation Department. The \$500,000, 3,000-square-foot science center will feature a rare desert wetlands ecosystem. The proposed center will allow students from Boise and Meridian to study the habitat of ducks, geese, songbirds, reptiles, and small mammals that live there. No start or completion dates were announced.

- St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center recently announced plans to begin construction on the first phase of its Meridian center in April. The 43,000-square-foot medical office and outpatient surgery center facility will be built on an eight-acre site on the southeast corner of Cherry Lane and Ten Mile Road. The \$11 million, first phase of the project will be completed by spring 2003.
- Pioneer Federal Credit Union recently celebrated the opening of its newest branch at 560 East State Street in Eagle. Pioneer Federal provides a full-service line of financial products and services. Members of the credit union must live, work, or attend school in the same county as the Pioneer branch.
- The Eagle Planning and Zoning Commission voted in late January to approve the proposal for a Hilton Garden Inn Hotel. Now the Eagle City Council has to approve the proposal before construction can begin on the project. Eagle River Hospitality, LLC is requesting a conditional use permit to construct the 45-foot hotel and a 48-foot chimney. The developers anticipate an April construction start date with completion planned for January 2003.
- Mobility Electronics, Inc. of Arizona recently purchased Portsmouth, Inc. The \$4.1 million deal includes \$1.1 million in Mobility Electronics stock that will go to the employee-owned Portsmouth workers. The other \$3 million will go to cancel a debt owed by Portsmouth. Portsmouth, a Boise company, will keep its name and continue to operate independently in Boise. Portsmouth provides a range of Ethernet, modem, and other connectivity products for handheld devices; the partnership with Mobility gives the company an opportunity to grow.
- Veratron, a Boise company, is currently involved in a new technology that features voice recognition and authentication software that could change the way that wireless transactions are made. Company officials say that the new technology is more secure and defeats Internet fraud by eliminating the need to send private information over the phone/Internet line. Veratron's role in this new technology is to provide biometric technology—or technology that uses an individual's biology, such as voice recognition. A demonstration of this technology was unveiled at Palm's annual conference in San Jose in early February. Veratron was established in May 2001 and started shipping products in March 2002.
- Micron Technology, Inc. sold all 58.6 million shares of Interland, Inc. stock in February. Micron and Interland worked together to find a solution in which six institutional investors purchased the majority of the Interland shares owned by the Micron Foundation. The Micron Technology Foundation now has additional money to invest in a more diversified portfolio. The Micron Technology Foundation is a charitable organization that funds education and community programs. The increase in cash could mean a large impact for Idaho since the foundation gives a large portion of its grants and awards to state organizations and schools. In other Micron Technology related information there is still a possibility of a deal between Micron Technology and Hynix, although no official announcement has been made regarding the possible alliance.
- ZiLOG officials made a statement to the press in early February stating that the company will continue to operate the manufacturing plant in Nampa. ZiLOG, headquartered in San Jose, employs approximately 800 people. Several hundred of the employees work at the Nampa plant, which is the company's only manufacturing plant since ZiLOG consolidated all of its Idaho operations under one plant in early February. The company is currently seeking approval of a prepackaged bankruptcy filing as part of the debt reorganization plan, which should be finalized during the second quarter of 2002. Under the proposed plan, all existing debt and stock of the company will be canceled, and its unsecured creditors, including its trade creditors, will be paid in full.
- The Caldwell Economic Development Council has chosen Al Ames as its new executive director, with Jan de Weerd as Al's assistant. Both Al and Jan are excited about the development projects scheduled for the next two years, which include the development of Indian Creek and a new development center that will be located in the Skyway Industrial Park off Highway 20-26. Al and Jan's job duties include attracting new business and assisting existing businesses, with a heavy focus on marketing. Al and Jan were introduced to the community at a reception in late February on the Albertson College of Idaho Campus.
- The Community Family Shelter in Nampa celebrated its grand opening in February. The \$1.2 million shelter provides 56 beds for homeless families, children, and single women in the Nampa area. The shelter's goal is to help homeless women and families re-establish self-sufficiency as well as offer a safe place to stay; a wide range of supportive services will be made available to clients to help them find permanent housing and jobs. In addition, the shelter's dining area will serve breakfast and lunch six days each week to both residents of the shelter and low-income nonresidents.
- The Canyon County Planning and Zoning Commission granted a conditional-use permit for Charlie Pintler's Desert Sun Farms to operate a 6,500-cow dairy in an agricultural zone, located at 13541 Surrey

Lane, south of Lake Lowell. There was one commissioner with concerns about the project, and opponents to the proposed dairy farm may appeal the decision to the Canyon County Planning & Zoning Commission.

- Construction started on a Sunrise Café on East First Street in downtown Middleton. The \$300,000, 4,200-square-foot, facility, the fifth Sunrise restaurant in the Treasure Valley, will seat 132 customers. The newest Sunrise restaurant is scheduled to open in early April.

Boise County

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort announced in late February that advanced sale season passes would remain at \$199 for the 2002-2003 season. The resort also celebrates its 60th anniversary in the upcoming season. The \$199 price is good from March 1, 2002 to April 15, 2002. The \$199 price is for skiers and riders between ages 12 and 69. Children aged 7 to 11 can ski or ride all season for \$29; children 6 and under and people aged 70 and over are free. A family pass is available for \$799, regardless of the number of children. The passes purchased between now and April 15 will allow the pass-holder to ski/ride the rest of this season as well as next season. Bogus Basin officials also have released a statement stating that the resort is considering the installation of a scanning system for lift passes after the influx of fake passes found this year; the system will help eliminate the fakes by scanning a barcode or other identifier.

Elmore County

- The Mountain Home School District announced plans to close Stephensen Middle School on the Mountain Home Air Force Base this summer. Budget cuts and a declining student population were cited as reasons for the closure. The sixth grade students that are leaving Stephensen will attend Liberty Elementary School on the base, while the seventh-graders will be bused to Hacker Middle School in Mountain Home. Hacker Middle School will have to undergo some expansion to deal with the 8 percent growth that will occur as a result of the closure. Closing Stephensen will save the school district about \$200,000.

Payette County

- Construction started on a new apartment complex in Payette. The Brandon Bay Apartments, located between Twelfth Street and South Main Street, will include 28 separate apartments that will be available for rent to Payette residents; the establishment will offer subsidized housing for families. The complex features seven buildings including six apartment

buildings and one community building. There will be four one-bedroom/one-bath units, sixteen two-bedroom/one-bath units, and eight three-bedroom/two-bath units. The grounds will be landscaped, and there will be a playground for children; the community building will include a business center, laundry facilities, and a community room for use by the residents. The new complex is scheduled for completion by June 1, 2002.

Valley County

- More than 200 people attended the State of Idaho Land Board public hearing in February regarding the proposed WestRock Resort. The Land Board listened to ten hours of testimony from developers, department heads, and community members regarding the \$1.2 billion resort proposal. The State Land Board still has to make a decision on whether or not to allow the lease of public land to the developers of WestRock. The Land Board did not make a decision on this issue at its February meeting.
- The McCall Ice Rink and Events Center received \$58,000 in donations since January, according to foundation officials. The donations came from a plethora of sources including individuals, businesses, and foundations. The foundation has now raised \$5.6 million toward the construction of the ice rink and events center. The \$5.6 million includes \$575,000 in the value of land donated by the Shaver family and a \$400,000 grant received in 2001 from the Idaho Department of Commerce. Ron Sabala, head of the Richard J. Sabala Memorial Foundation, said that the foundation is currently soliciting construction bids for the project, which should begin this spring.

Washington County

- In late February, the Weiser City Council voted to start negotiations to purchase the Weiser Pump & Pipe building, located across from Weiser City Hall. Once a price has been negotiated, the city council will meet again to decide whether or not to purchase the property. A number of possible uses were cited for the building, but no specific plan was made.

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MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Magic Valley Labor Market Area (LMA) was three-tenths of a percentage point higher in January 2002 than January 2001 and two-tenths of a percentage point higher than December 2001, as shown in Magic Valley Table 1. *Civilian Labor Force* was 6.1 percent higher in January 2002 than in January 2001. There were 160 more unemployed workers in January 2002 than in December 2001 and 300 more than a year ago. The reasons for this increase were post-holiday *Retail* reductions in force and weather-related slowdowns in the *Mining & Construction* sector. The construction slowdown was more pronounced this year because 2001 was a very mild winter and some projects continued year-round.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs saw an increase of 3.9 percent year-over-year as job creation remained stable in the Magic Valley. There was a reduction of 2.1 percent from December 2001 to January 2002 that coincides with the aforementioned reduction in retail and constructions jobs. A major increase of 24.5 percent occurred in the *Services* sector that is primarily caused by the increase in temporary workers from temporary employment staffing agencies. Many businesses have changed staffing patterns and are now employing temporary workers for a variety of reasons. Statistically, this has had little effect on overall numbers, but it does make sector analyses difficult because of the wide spectrum of workers employed by temporary staffing agencies. Many of the workers are from *Food-Processing*, *Manufacturing-Durable Goods*, and clerical and construction occupations.

This makes it difficult to identify whether small decreases in some sectors are trends in employment due to eco-

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding counties

	Jan 2002*	Dec 2001	Jan 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	52,110	51,260	49,230	1.9	6.1
Unemployment	2,300	2,140	2,000	7.9	15.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.2	4.1		
Total Employment	49,810	49,120	47,230	1.7	5.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	50,230	51,020	47,500	-1.3	6.0
Unemployment	2,720	2,290	2,490	19.2	9.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.4	4.5	5.2		
Total Employment	47,510	48,730	45,010	-2.2	5.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	38,460	39,280	37,000	-2.1	3.9
Goods-Producing Industries	6,440	6,860	6,820	-6.1	-5.6
Mining & Construction	1,530	1,770	1,660	-13.6	-7.8
Manufacturing	4,910	5,090	5,160	-3.5	-4.8
Durable Goods	830	840	900	-1.2	-7.8
Nondurable Goods	4,080	4,250	4,260	-4.0	-4.2
Food Processing	3,120	3,270	3,190	-4.6	-2.2
All Other Nondurable Goods	960	980	1,070	-2.0	-10.3
Service-Producing Industries	32,020	32,420	30,180	-1.2	6.1
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,600	2,690	2,740	-3.3	-5.1
Wholesale Trade	2,180	2,200	2,270	-0.9	-4.0
Retail Trade	7,860	8,230	8,040	-4.5	-2.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,300	1,270	1,350	2.4	-3.7
Services	10,530	10,590	8,460	-0.6	24.5
Government Administration	3,890	3,730	3,730	4.3	4.3
Government Education	3,660	3,710	3,590	-1.3	1.9

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

nomical changes or the general result of temporary workers identified in the *Services* sector.

Overall, stability and optimism are still applicable to the South Central Idaho economy. The unemployment rate of 4.4 percent is very good and more than a percentage point lower than the national rate. The stable trend is also atypical of most of the rest of Idaho as unemployment rates have increased dramatically in other LMAs. Again, economic stability in the Magic Valley has been fueled by good consumer confidence, agricultural improvement, and lack of major announced layoffs. Reductions in state budgets remain a concern as staff cutbacks in *Education* and other state agencies seem inevitable. However, with Dell's recent announcement of 200 more jobs to be created, bringing a total of approximately 450 new jobs to the area, and renewed construction activity on new housing

starts later this spring, the outlook for South Central Idaho remains generally positive.

SPECIAL TOPIC

Agriculture

For the first time in several years, there is reason for optimism in agriculture. There are some previously negative factors that have had positive trends since last year. First, commodity prices are improved for most agricultural products, particularly potatoes, alfalfa, and milk. Most of the other crops grown in the Magic Valley are stable or higher than last year. Second, interest rates are lower than in previous years, and this will help farmers a great deal in their financing. Fuel costs are also lower than last year. However, fuel prices are extremely volatile and can be greatly affected by foreign policy and the present Middle-East tension. So fuel costs are, at least in the short term, favorable for farmers but could quickly change. Fertilizer prices also are lower than last year, and that will reduce per acre costs for farmers, or some farmers can possibly apply more fertilizer to increase yields if prices are favorable at planting time.

The Agricultural Minimum Wage Law that took effect on January 1, 2002, will not have a significant effect on farmers in the Magic Valley since the vast majority of farmers already paid above minimum wage. In fact, the protection it affords workers could actually work to the farmers' advantage in attracting and retaining good workers that might have otherwise chosen to work in other states.

The water outlook is better than last year although more moisture is needed as February has been drier than normal. A negative factor is higher electrical costs that will drive up per acre costs, particularly in deep well-irrigated farms. This year's water situation does not promise to improve the rate picture although there is a larger snow pack. Overall, farmers seem to have more to look forward to in 2002, and this will have a stabilizing and vitalizing effect on the entire South Central Idaho economy.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Twin Falls County

- Dell Computers held the grand opening of its Twin Falls Consumer technical support operation at 871 Pole Line on February 1. Governor Dirk Kempthorne, U.S. Congressman Mike Simpson, and U.S. Senator Larry Craig were some of the dignitaries that attended the event, along with Idaho Department of Labor Director Roger Madsen and Idaho Department of Commerce Director Gary Mahn. Gov. Kempthorne and Twin Falls Mayor Lance Clow welcomed Dell to Idaho and Twin Falls, respectively. The Idaho Department of Labor, Magic

Valley Job Service, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce, and Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization were recognized as partners that helped "Build the Bridge" in bringing Dell to the Magic Valley. Dell Vice-President of Consumer Technical Support Rick Chase announced that the Twin Falls Technical Support Center start-up has been very successful thus far and that he was pleased to announce that Dell would be hiring an additional 200 people bringing the work force to approximately 450 jobs.

Cassia and Minidoka Counties

- McCain Foods USA is remodeling its two potato processing plants outside of Burley. The plants are getting a design upgrade and new processing equipment. The project will improve product flows, product quality, and lead to more efficient operations. A company spokesperson said that there will be new equipment but that machines will not replace employees or negatively affect staffing levels at the plant. Due to competitive concerns, the company would not specify all of the improvements, but did say that a new lunch room and a new bacteria and quality control area are part of the plan. Construction on the approximately \$14.7 million project began in October 2001 and is expected to be finished in June 2002. The company has hired many contractors to remodel the building. The construction contractors have brought construction workers to Burley from as far away as Boise.

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SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate jumped seven-tenths of a percentage point to 6.2 percent in January 2002 over December 2001 when it was 5.5 percent, as shown in Table 1. The increase occurred because of job losses from the Astaris closure and the loss of temporary jobs for the holiday shopping season.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs dropped by 820 in January 2002 to 32,520. Large decreases occurred in *Retail Trade, Services,* and *Government Education*, which is typical in January because temporary jobs for seasonal activities in November and December generally disappear in January. In the remaining industries; *Construction, Manufacturing, Transportation, Communications & Utilities, Wholesale Trade,* and *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* there was little change. Generally, January and February are two of the slowest months in terms of jobs because they fall between the busy holiday shopping season and spring when jobs typically increase.

From January 2001, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* declined by 300, a drop of nearly 1 percent. Three industries decreased over the year; *Construction* (10), *Manufacturing* (320), and *Retail Trade* (360). *Manufacturing* declined because of downsizing at American Microsystems in Pocatello and because the national and global economy slowed. *Retail Trade* losses also occurred as a result of the economic slowdown, but a change in employers' hiring practices contributed. Many retail employers are working their staff more hours instead of hiring additional people. Jobs increased significantly in *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* because of an expansion at Farmer's Insurance in Pocatello and job growth at credit unions.

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	Jan 2002*	Dec 2001	Jan 2001	% Change From Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	41,340	40,690	40,300	1.6	2.6
Unemployment	2,570	2,240	1,800	14.7	42.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.2	5.5	4.5		
Total Employment	38,770	38,450	38,500	0.8	0.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	41,450	41,380	40,390	0.2	2.6
Unemployment	2,920	2,360	2,150	23.7	35.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.0	5.7	5.3		
Total Employment	38,530	39,030	38,240	-1.3	0.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	32,520	33,340	32,820	-2.5	-0.9
Goods-Producing Industries	4,220	4,220	4,550	0.0	-7.3
Mining & Construction	1,640	1,600	1,650	2.5	-0.6
Manufacturing	2,580	2,620	2,900	-1.5	-11.0
Service-Producing Industries	28,300	29,120	28,270	-2.8	0.1
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,740	1,730	1,720	0.6	1.2
Wholesale Trade	1,480	1,450	1,450	2.1	2.1
Retail Trade	6,760	7,110	7,120	-4.9	-5.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,790	1,790	1,640	0.0	9.1
Services	7,880	8,180	7,830	-3.7	0.6
Government Administration	3,390	3,450	3,280	-1.7	3.4
Government Education	5,260	5,410	5,230	-2.8	0.6

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

SPECIAL TOPIC

Annual Labor Force Data

Final 2001 annual labor force data, released by the Idaho Department of Labor, showed favorable labor force conditions throughout Southeast Idaho during the year. The data has been benchmarked back to 1998, providing a four-year comparison.

The following narrative and graphs on page 18 show county labor force detail for the benchmark period.

Bannock County

The 2001 annual average unemployment rate in Bannock County was 4.7 percent, three tenths of a percentage point lower than the 2000 annual average unemployment rate of 5.0 percent. The *Civilian Labor Force* grew by 1,249 individuals (3.2 percent) year-over-year. Despite job losses throughout the year and a national recession, employment grew by 1,285 for a 3.4 percent gain.

Bear Lake County

Bear Lake County's labor force of 2,829 had an average annual unemployment rate of 5.0 percent in 2001. The rate fell eight-tenths of a percentage point from the 2001 rate of 5.8 percent. Employment grew eight-tenths of a percentage point as unemployment fell 13.9 percent.

Table 2: 2001 Average Annual Unemployment Rates

Bannock County	4.7%
Bear Lake County	5.0%
Bingham County	4.6%
Caribou County	5.8%
Franklin County	3.8%
Oneida County	3.6%
Power County	7.2%

Chart 1: Employment

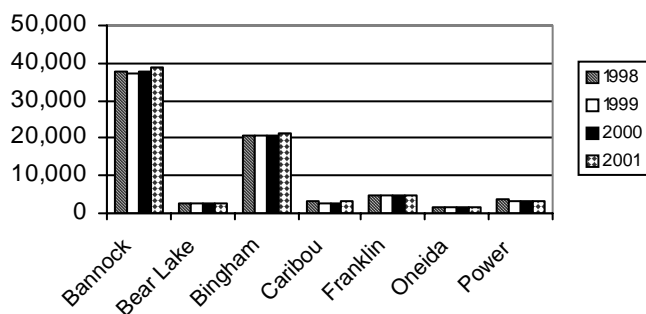
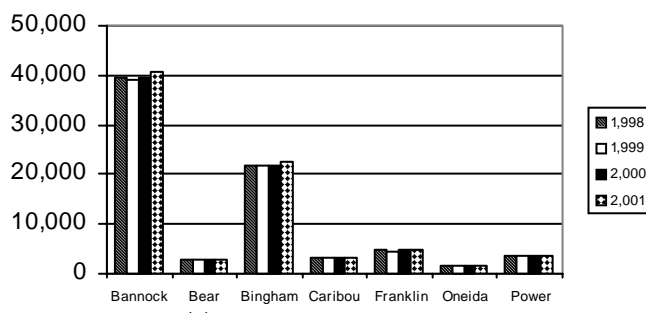


Chart 2: Civilian Labor Force



Bingham County

The annual average unemployment rate in Bingham County was unchanged from 2000 to 2001 and remained at 4.6 percent. The county's *Civilian Labor Force* increased 2.3 percent to 22,419 and the number of individuals who were employed during the year increased by 492 to 21,388.

Caribou County

Caribou County's labor market functioned at a slightly higher pace in 2001 over 2000. The *Civilian Labor Force* and employment increased at about the same rate, edging up 10.2 percent and 10.4 percent, respectively. The number of unemployed increased at a much slower rate (5.9 percent) forcing the unemployment rate down two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.8 percent in 2001.

Franklin County

Franklin County's annual average unemployment rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.8 percent in

2001 over 2000. The *Civilian Labor Force* and employment increased 5.1 percent while unemployment increased a bit slower at a rate of 4.9 percent.

Oneida County

Oneida County, Southeast Idaho's smallest county in terms of population and labor force, has the lowest unemployment rate in Southeast Idaho. In 2001 the county's annual average unemployment rate was unchanged from 2000 at 3.6 percent. The *Civilian Labor Force* and employment increased at about the same rate, just over 3 percent.

Power County

Power County, which is heavily dependant on agriculture and agriculture-related industry, has the highest unemployment rate in Southeast Idaho. In 2001, the county's annual average unemployment rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point to 7.2 percent. The county saw its *Civilian Labor Force* and employment dwindle by 2.7 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively. Unemployment was unchanged at 247 individuals.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Business openings

- Oakridge Bakery opened at the Oakridge Convenience Store and Amoco station in Blackfoot. The addition of the bakery also added three jobs at the business.
- The 3G's, gas, deli, and convenience store reopened in Blackfoot. The business had been idle for approximately six years and reopened under new ownership.
- Hong's Chinese Take-out opened in Blackfoot at the former Hogie Yogie building. The business employs 12 people.
- Construction of a new Franklin County Fire District fire/ambulance station is underway in Preston. Completion of the facility is expected this summer.
- The Dayton Country Store opened in Dayton. The store offers grocery items and a deli bar.

Business closures

- JB's Restaurant, at 1010 Pocatello Avenue in Pocatello, closed after nearly 30 years in business, eliminating 25 jobs.
- BMC West will close its building supply store in Pocatello and consolidate its operations in the Idaho Falls location. The move will eliminate 15 jobs in Pocatello. Five sales positions will remain in Pocatello.
- Supreme Specialties, the cheese manufacturing facility in Blackfoot, has closed and eliminated 26 jobs. The business also affects approximately 40 local dairymen who delivered milk to the Blackfoot plant. An effort to locate a buyer is underway.

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NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Bonneville Labor Market Area's (LMA) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for January remained constant at 4.1 percent over the month and one-tenth of a percentage point higher at a year-over-year comparison as shown in Northeast Idaho Table 1. The LMA saw very little activity during the month as construction awaited workable weather and temperatures.

Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, showed a decrease of three-tenths of a percentage point in the unemployment rate month-over-month to 3.7 percent, the same rate experienced in January 2001. The unemployment rates in Bingham County at 5.0 percent, Bonneville County at 3.7 percent, and Jefferson County at 4.1 percent, experienced little change over the month. Butte County had the largest change with an increase of three-tenths of a percentage point to 4.6 percent. Year-over-year, Bingham and Bonneville Counties showed an increase of one-tenth of a percentage point, Butte County experienced a decrease of four-tenths of a percentage point, and Jefferson County remained unchanged.

Of the other six counties in Northeast Idaho, Clark County's unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 4.1 percent. The current rate is four-tenths of a percentage point higher than January 2001. Custer County's unemployment rate increased 1.0 percentage point over the month to 7.9 percent. A slow down in *Construction* activity along with seasonal downturns in *Forest Service* were the reasons. The year-over-year comparison showed that the current unemployment rate in Custer County dropped one-tenth of a percentage point. Fremont County's rate of 6.4 percent was three-tenths of a percentage point decrease from the previous month and down nine-tenths of a percentage point from January 2001. Lemhi County's unemployment rate remained constant at 7.5 percent for the month, but was down 1.2 percentage points from January 2001 following the lingering effects from the forest fires in 2000. Madison County has the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 2.0 per-

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	Jan 2002*	Dec 2001	Jan 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	81,260	83,580	80,990	-2.8	0.3
Unemployment	3,350	3,450	3,260	-2.9	2.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	4.1	4.0		
Total Employment	77,910	80,130	77,730	-2.8	0.2
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	79,790	82,580	79,650	-3.4	0.2
Unemployment	3,830	3,500	3,920	9.4	-2.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	4.2	4.9		
Total Employment	75,960	79,080	75,730	-3.9	0.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
Goods-Producing Industries	8,440	9,010	8,570	-6.3	-1.5
Mining & Construction	3,530	4,110	3,400	-14.1	3.8
Manufacturing	4,910	4,900	5,170	0.2	-5.0
Food Processing	2,480	2,470	2,880	0.4	-13.9
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	460	440	440	4.5	4.5
All Other Manufacturing	1,970	1,990	1,850	-1.0	6.5
Service-Producing Industries	51,410	52,440	51,910	-2.0	-1.0
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,260	2,360	2,340	-4.2	-3.4
Wholesale Trade	5,220	5,220	5,680	0.0	-8.1
Retail Trade	10,840	11,500	10,980	-5.7	-1.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,890	1,890	1,850	0.0	2.2
Services	20,560	20,890	20,490	-1.6	0.3
Government Administration	5,070	5,060	5,210	0.2	-2.7
Government Education	5,570	5,520	5,360	0.9	3.9

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

cent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month but the same as January 2001. Teton County's unemployment rate is up six-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month. The current rate of 3.8 percent is up nine-tenths of a percentage point from January 2001.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (jobs by place of work) decreased 1,600 over the month to 59,850 in January. *Goods-Producing Industries* decreased 570 jobs, all in the *Construction* sector because of the seasonal slowdown of activity this time of year. *Service-Producing Industries* decreased 1,030 with *Retail Trade* (660 jobs) and *Services* (330 jobs) experiencing the most losses. *Retail Trade* had job losses in all sectors, with *General Merchandise* and *Eating & Drinking Places* having the largest losses as the holidays came to an end followed by conservative spending.

A year-over-year comparison showed a decrease of 630 jobs in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*, with the majority (500 jobs) in the *Service-Producing Industries*. An increase in *Construction* of 130 jobs was offset by decreases in *Manufacturing* of 260 jobs. A loss of 400 jobs in *Food Processing* overpowered the gain of 20 jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* and 120 jobs in *All Other Manufacturing*. *Wholesale Trade* drove the overall losses in *Service-Producing Industries* as extremely cold weather in early January prohibited fresh

produce from being delivered to packaging facilities, and intermittent layoffs were necessary. A small decrease in jobs in *Retail Trade* was expected after the holidays and a decrease in *Government Administration* came as city and state maintenance demand dropped off after fall cleaning and road repairs were completed. *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* and *Services* showed small gains of 40 and 70 jobs, respectively. In the *Services* sector, the addition of 220 jobs in *Business Services* and 260 jobs in *Health Services* could not offset the more than 500 jobs losses in *Engineering & Management* after INEEL layoffs. *Government Education* showed a large increase of 210 jobs as local school districts continued to add staff to meet the demands of the growing school age population.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- Papa John's, the nation's third-largest pizza chain, announced that they will open an outlet at 555 South Woodruff Avenue around April 1. Pioneer Junction from Cheyenne, Wyoming, has franchise rights for Papa John's in selected western states. They will run the outlet, but are training candidates from the local area to manage it. The company has more than 2,600 restaurants in 47 states.
- JP Realty, Inc. of Salt Lake City unanimously approved acquisition of their properties by General Growth Properties, Inc. The acquisition adds the Grand Teton Mall, along with 17 regional shopping malls, 26 community centers, and other industrial properties, to the company's impressive portfolio as one of the nation's largest shopping mall owners. General Growth Chief Executive John Bucksbaum envisions a three- to five-year campaign to attract national retailers to the new malls.
- Woodland Furniture of Idaho Falls was honored to receive a Shingo Prize for Excellence in Manufacturing. Annual prizes are given to companies recognized for streamlining their processes and cutting out waste based on the practice of Shiego Shingo, the man who helped create Toyota's production system. Woodland Furniture was started in 1995 and now employs over 130 workers in its plant off South Yellowstone Highway. Woodland Furniture makes reproductions of antique furniture for clients all over the nation.
- Harker Design of Idaho Falls will open a showroom at South Yellowstone Highway and Heyrend Way. The 8,000-square-foot building will use half of the space for display and the other half for workspace. A warehouse also will be built. The showroom is expect to open in April. The company also has a showroom in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Products will include manufacturers' furniture and accessories, artwork, and rugs with a wide range of prices.

Fremont County

- Adason Adventures Video Store opened in St. Anthony the end of January. The video store, located at 9 North Bridge Street, also offers a hunting arcade, laser firearms, an indoor archery range, and archery supplies

for hunters. The business, owned by Bob Adams and Victor Nelson, is open noon to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and noon to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Madison County

- The Rexburg Chamber of Commerce is taking over the grant administration and information distribution for Region 6 of the Idaho Department of Commerce and will become the hub for tourism information. The Chamber will soon get a toll-free number and start handling all tourist information requests for the nine counties that encompass the same boundaries as the Northeast Idaho area. Postage, copy, brochure, and phone expenses will be reimbursed to the Chamber through a regional tourism grant from the Department of Commerce. The office is located at 420 West Fourth South, next to Frontier Pies and Best Western. The hub was in Idaho Falls, but Director Mike Kuhns said the Idaho Falls Chamber released the grant in order to concentrate on its urban tourism grant for marketing Idaho Falls.
- Staples is closing its doors in Rexburg after three years of operation. The office supply chain store pointed to lackluster sales since product demand is not strong enough to carry the store's expenses and quotas. The store is still in the process of liquidation, but is planning complete closure at the end of April.
- Sugar City got its first gas station after the closure of two previous gas stations four years ago. Sugar City One Stop, a convenience store and gas station located at 6 East Center, will serve the town's population of 1,242. The announcement of BYU-Idaho increased construction in the city, and Brad Orme, owner and manager, feels that potential growth in the town will support the store. The store is open Monday through Saturday from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and is closed Sundays.
- The International Folk Dance Festival, annually held in Rexburg, will have some changes this year. The festival, in its seventeenth year in Idaho, will tour the state this summer. The Hart Gymnasium at BYU-Idaho, where main performances have always been held, will be under renovation this summer so the dancers will be on the road. The main performances will be held at Viking Stadium in Rexburg, Boise State Pavilion in Boise, and Holt Arena in Pocatello. The festival will start on July 12 in Boise, travel to Pocatello July 18-20, and will end up at Rexburg July 17-27. The festival includes an opening and closing ceremony, youth and adult culture classes and workshops, a parade, and performances every Friday and Saturday night.

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F.Y.I.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT & WAGES

The Idaho Department of Labor, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, conducted the 2001 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) employment and wage survey from October 2000 through August 2001. The data obtained from this survey is now available from the Idaho Department of Labor in both printed and electronic format. The printed publication can be obtained by contacting:

Public Affairs
Idaho Department of Labor
317 W. Main Street
Boise ID 83735
Phone: (208) 332-3570, ext. 3211 or 1-800-772-2553
Email: wbrown@labor.state.id.us

The electronic publication can be found at:
<http://www.labor.state.id.us/lmi/wage-survey/owsmainmenu.htm> or <http://stats.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm>

The publication consists of the three sections described below:

- **Introduction:** The first section describes the methods and contents of the survey to aid the reader in understanding and using the wage information provided in this publication.
- **Wage Tables:** The second section includes wage tables for eight geographic areas and the highest and lowest paid occupations. The State of Idaho table provides data based on all 44 Idaho counties. The North Idaho table provides data based on the ten northern counties. The Boise Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) table provides data based on Ada and Canyon Counties in southwestern Idaho. The Southwest table, excluding Boise MSA, provides data based on the ten southwestern counties excluding Ada and Canyon Counties. The South Central table provides data based on the eight counties in south central Idaho. The Pocatello MSA table provides data based on Bannock County in eastern Idaho. The Eastern Idaho table provides data on the 15 counties in eastern Idaho excluding Bannock County. In each of these tables, the average (mean), entry,

midpoint (median), and middle range wage levels are provided in occupational code order. The last two tables are based on statewide data and list the 20 occupations paying the highest wages and the 20 occupations paying the lowest wages.

- **List of Occupations:** The third section provides an alphabetical listing of occupations to aid in locating specific job titles.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Internet site contains a table for each occupation with employment, mean, and median hourly wage, mean annual wage, and the mean relative standard error (RSE). Only the state and MSA data is available at the BLS Internet sites. The wage tables for the eight geographic regions are available at both the Idaho Department of Labor Internet site (www.labor.state.id.us) and in the state publication. Both the Idaho and BLS Internet sites include definitions for all occupations.

SOC Classification System

This is the second year that the survey results have been collected and released using the Office of Management and Budget's Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. The SOC system will be used by all federal statistical agencies for reporting occupational data. The SOC system consists of 821 detailed occupations grouped into 449 broad occupations, 96 minor groups, and 23 major groups. The OES program provides occupational employment and wage data at the major group level and detailed occupation level.

Due to the transition to the new SOC system last year, the data collected in 1999 and published in 2000 is not directly comparable with previous years' occupational employment and wage data. As a result of the change in the coding system, employment and wage data was available only for the four geographic areas. Because there has been two year's of data collected using the SOC system, employment and wage data for North Idaho, Southwest Idaho, (excluding the Boise MSA), South Central Idaho, and Eastern Idaho, (excluding the Pocatello MSA), are available this year.

Terms

There are four basic terms used in the wage survey.

- The **mean** is a measure of central tendency and represents the sum of the values of the observations divided by the number of observation; it also is known as the arithmetic average. It is more commonly referred to as the average.
- The **median** is a measure of central tendency that is not sensitive to values that are far removed (outlying) from the others and which have undo effect on the mean. The median represents the value at which one-half of the observations fall below it and one-half are above it. This measure is more commonly referred to as the mid-point.
- The **middle range** is a term used to describe the range of wages paid to the middle 50 percent of the workers in a specific occupation. This means that one-fourth the employees are earning wages below the low end of the middle range and one-fourth of the employees are earning wages above the high end. This range provides the user with information regarding the variance of pay within an occupation—a measure where 50 percent of the wage rates fall.
- The **entry wage** is a term that refers to the average wage paid to those in the bottom third of workers in an occupation. This is an imputed wage measure, rather than a surveyed measure.

Pay Ranges

Employers are asked to report the number of employees by occupational classification and by pay range. Only wage and salary-type compensation data are included in the survey results. Therefore, fringe

Range	Per Hour	Per Year
A	Under \$6.75	Under \$14,040
B	\$6.75 - 8.49	\$14,040 - 17,679
C	\$8.50 - 10.74	\$17,780 - 22,359
D	\$10.75 - 13.49	\$22,360 - 28,078
E	\$13.50 - 16.99	\$28,080 - 35,359
F	\$17.00-21.49	\$35,360-44,719
G	\$21.50-27.24	\$44,720-56,679
H	\$27.25-34.49	\$44,720-56,679
I	\$34.50-43.74	\$71,760-90,999
J	\$43.75-55.49	\$91,000-115,439
K	\$55.50-69.99	\$55.50-69.99
L	\$70.00 +	\$145,600 +

benefits costs, overtime, bonuses, incentive pay, and other non-wage earnings are not included. The pay ranges are listed in the table above.

Highest & Lowest Wages

FYI Table 1 and Table 2 on page 23 present the employment, average-wage average, entry wage, midpoint wage, and middle range wages for the 20 highest-paid occupations and the 20 lowest-paid occupations. Eight of the 20 highest-paid occupations were in the *Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations*. The highest average wage, \$60.71, was paid to Internists, General. The highest paid occupation last year was Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates, which ranked only sixth this year with an average wage of \$48.18. More than half of the lowest-paid occupations are in the *Food Preparation & Servicing Occupations*. The lowest average wage, \$6.00, was paid to Waiters & Waitresses. The wage rates do not include tips, bonuses, benefits, or other payments that could affect the workers' earnings.

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LABOR FORCE UPDATE

The labor force data for 2001 has been benchmarked. Basically, this means that the estimated employment data has been replaced with final and revised data. This is a process that is completed every February by each state, which is the reason that January's unemployment rate is not available on the first Friday of the month when the national rate is released. We published the preliminary annual average labor force data in the December 2001 issue of *Idaho Employment*. We are now updating that table. FYI Table 3 (on page 24) has the latest annual average

labor force data for 2001. The table also includes 2000 annual data so that a comparison can be made. If you have any questions or would like the monthly data, please contact:

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Occupational Employment & Wages

FYI Table 1: 20 HIGHEST PAYING OCCUPATIONS							
SOC Code	SOC Title	Empl.	Average Wage	Midpoint Wage	Entry Wage	Middle Range Wage	
29-1063	Internists, General	*	\$67.71	\$70.00	\$63.16	\$70.00	\$70.01
29-1067	Surgeons	220	\$67.63	\$70.00	\$62.90	\$70.00	\$70.01
29-1064	Obstetricians and Gynecologists	30	\$65.32	\$70.00	\$55.95	\$70.00	\$70.01
29-1066	Psychiatrists	50	\$64.39	\$69.69	\$57.18	\$57.86	\$70.01
29-1065	Pediatricians, General	*	\$53.10	\$54.01	\$36.73	\$45.83	\$70.00
23-1023	Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates	50	\$48.18	\$49.37	\$46.70	\$46.19	\$52.56
29-1062	Family and General Practitioners	700	\$45.76	\$48.86	\$23.04	\$27.16	\$70.00
11-1011	Chief Executives	2,690	\$40.04	\$37.43	\$19.06	\$23.83	\$57.51
11-9041	Engineering Managers	1,300	\$39.69	\$39.51	\$27.16	\$31.74	\$48.96
29-1069	Physicians and Surgeons, All Other	40	\$38.92	\$34.00	\$19.26	\$27.91	\$52.81
11-9033	Education Administrators, Postsecondary	240	\$36.07	\$37.32	\$22.16	\$26.61	\$46.71
29-1041	Optometrists	120	\$35.13	\$32.19	\$20.15	\$21.55	\$46.19
41-3031	Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents	510	\$34.16	\$29.59	\$17.08	\$19.13	\$45.29
23-1000	Lawyers, Judges, and Related Workers	1,790	\$33.43	\$29.77	\$21.29	\$23.83	\$40.03
23-1011	Lawyers	1,670	\$33.23	\$29.70	\$21.60	\$23.99	\$38.87
17-2041	Chemical Engineers	200	\$33.20	\$33.02	\$25.32	\$27.47	\$39.30
15-1011	Computer and Information Scientists, Research	30	\$32.90	\$35.29	\$23.30	\$26.94	\$40.67
17-2072	Electronics Engineers, Except Computer	220	\$32.78	\$29.41	\$18.33	\$21.57	\$38.93
13-1111	Management Analysts	680	\$32.69	\$24.46	\$17.17	\$18.76	\$35.01
11-3021	Computer and Information Systems Managers	720	\$32.17	\$31.13	\$19.09	\$22.22	\$41.01

FYI Table 2: 20 LOWEST PAYING OCCUPATIONS							
SOC Code	SOC Title	Empl.	Average Wage	Midpoint Wage	Entry Wage	Middle Range Wage	
37-2012	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	4,260	\$6.88	\$6.66	\$5.87	\$5.94	\$7.85
43-4081	Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	930	\$6.84	\$6.74	\$5.86	\$5.97	\$7.73
39-3000	Entertainment Attendants and Related Workers	1,530	\$6.80	\$6.33	\$5.89	\$5.79	\$6.96
39-3091	Amusement and Recreation Attendants	1,230	\$6.76	\$6.29	\$5.89	\$5.77	\$6.87
51-6021	Pressers, Textile, Garment, and Related Materials	400	\$6.76	\$6.78	\$5.88	\$6.01	\$7.67
35-2015	Cooks, Short Order	*	\$6.69	\$6.37	\$5.83	\$5.76	\$7.46
35-3041	Food Servers, Nonrestaurant	740	\$6.68	\$6.35	\$5.85	\$5.77	\$7.36
35-3022	Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, and Coffee Shop	1,670	\$6.65	\$6.30	\$5.86	\$5.75	\$6.97
39-5092	Manicurists and Pedicurists	30	\$6.56	\$6.30	\$5.84	\$5.74	\$7.10
51-3099	All Other Food Processing Workers	750	\$6.56	\$6.19	\$5.83	\$5.68	\$6.70
35-9031	Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop	1,200	\$6.44	\$6.27	\$5.87	\$5.75	\$6.85
35-3011	Bartenders	2,360	\$6.38	\$6.25	\$5.85	\$5.72	\$6.84
35-3021	Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	9,300	\$6.36	\$6.24	\$5.84	\$5.71	\$6.79
35-3000	Food and Beverage Serving Workers	21,890	\$6.27	\$6.17	\$5.85	\$5.68	\$6.66
37-3019	Grounds Maintenance Workers, All Other	*	\$6.24	\$6.13	\$5.82	\$5.64	\$6.62
35-9000	Other Food Preparation and Serving Related Workers	5,180	\$6.22	\$6.17	\$5.86	\$5.69	\$6.65
39-3031	Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers	180	\$6.19	\$6.22	\$5.89	\$5.74	\$6.71
35-9011	Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	940	\$6.13	\$6.16	\$5.90	\$5.71	\$6.60
35-9021	Dishwashers	2,710	\$6.12	\$6.11	\$5.84	\$5.65	\$6.58
35-3031	Waiters and Waitresses	7,810	\$6.00	\$6.05	\$5.85	\$5.62	\$6.48

FYI Table 3: Annual Average Labor Force Data for 2000 and 2001

ANNUAL AVERAGE LABOR FORCE DATA 2001*					ANNUAL AVERAGE LABOR FORCE DATA 2000			
AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	UNEMP	PERCENT UNEMP	TOTAL EMPLOY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	UNEMP	PERCENT UNEMP	TOTAL EMPLOY
COUNTIES								
ADA	180,161	6,313	3.5	173,848	170,914	5,070	3.0	165,844
ADAMS	1,646	223	13.6	1,423	1,625	211	13.0	1,415
BANNOCK	40,751	1,932	4.7	38,818	39,502	1,969	5.0	37,533
BEAR LAKE	2,829	142	5.0	2,687	2,831	165	5.8	2,666
BENEWAH	4,410	448	10.2	3,961	4,443	553	12.4	3,891
BINGHAM	22,419	1,031	4.6	21,388	21,908	1,012	4.6	20,896
BLAINE	12,155	355	2.9	11,800	11,327	373	3.3	10,955
BOISE	2,532	126	5.0	2,406	2,343	167	7.1	2,176
BONNER	17,547	1,425	8.1	16,123	17,396	1,560	9.0	15,836
BONNEVILLE	47,563	1,585	3.3	45,977	46,478	1,558	3.4	44,921
BOUNDARY	4,570	416	9.1	4,154	4,465	386	8.6	4,080
BUTTE	1,636	63	3.8	1,573	1,596	59	3.7	1,537
CAMAS	398	20	4.9	379	406	16	4.0	390
CANYON	69,081	3,649	5.3	65,433	65,365	2,945	4.5	62,420
CARIBOU	3,396	197	5.8	3,199	3,083	186	6.0	2,897
CASSIA	9,667	536	5.5	9,131	9,548	595	6.2	8,953
CLARK	658	29	4.3	629	576	28	4.8	549
CLEARWATER	3,776	563	14.9	3,213	3,936	564	14.3	3,372
CUSTER	2,206	168	7.6	2,038	2,062	147	7.1	1,916
ELMORE	9,610	580	6.0	9,030	9,163	556	6.1	8,607
FRANKLIN	4,954	191	3.8	4,763	4,712	182	3.9	4,530
FREMONT	4,758	308	6.5	4,450	4,694	328	7.0	4,366
GEM	6,601	522	7.9	6,079	6,237	363	5.8	5,874
GOODING	6,964	244	3.5	6,720	6,585	254	3.9	6,330
IDAHO	6,252	596	9.5	5,656	6,116	626	10.2	5,491
JEFFERSON	10,497	391	3.7	10,106	10,269	396	3.9	9,873
JEROME	9,363	358	3.8	9,005	8,878	396	4.5	8,483
KOOTENAI	56,817	4,306	7.6	52,511	55,717	4,141	7.4	51,576
LATAH	14,970	498	3.3	14,473	15,164	523	3.4	14,641
LEMHI	3,759	285	7.6	3,474	3,667	330	9.0	3,337
LEWIS	1,568	118	7.5	1,450	1,524	117	7.7	1,407
LINCOLN	1,934	76	3.9	1,858	1,832	89	4.9	1,743
MADISON	11,552	234	2.0	11,318	11,021	272	2.5	10,749
MINIDOKA	9,828	629	6.4	9,199	9,723	703	7.2	9,019
NEZ PERCE	23,147	910	3.9	22,237	22,687	947	4.2	21,740
ONEIDA	1,758	63	3.6	1,695	1,703	62	3.6	1,641
OWYHEE	4,338	197	4.5	4,140	4,251	178	4.2	4,073
PAYETTE	9,954	838	8.4	9,117	9,988	690	6.9	9,298
POWER	3,446	247	7.2	3,199	3,543	247	7.0	3,297
SHOSHONE	6,735	807	12.0	5,929	6,548	725	11.1	5,823
TETON	3,681	93	2.5	3,588	3,314	104	3.1	3,210
TWIN FALLS	33,744	1,389	4.1	32,355	31,891	1,414	4.4	30,477
VALLEY	4,102	342	8.3	3,760	4,107	320	7.8	3,787
WASHINGTON	4,498	396	8.8	4,102	4,575	392	8.6	4,183
ASOTIN WA	11,623	558	4.8	11,065	11,801	537	4.5	11,264
STATE OF IDAHO	682,228	33,836	5.0	648,392	657,712	31,914	4.9	625,798
LABOR MARKET AREAS								
BOISE CITY MSA	249,243	9,962	4.0	239,281	236,278	8,015	3.4	228,264
BONNEVILLE LMA	82,114	3,070	3.7	79,044	80,252	3,025	3.8	77,227
CASSIA-MINIDOKA LMA	19,495	1,165	6.0	18,330	19,270	1,298	6.7	17,972
IDAHO-LEWIS LMA	7,820	714	9.1	7,105	7,640	742	9.7	6,898
MAGIC VALLEY LMA	50,071	1,990	4.0	48,081	47,353	2,063	4.4	45,290
PANHANDLE LMA	90,079	7,402	8.2	82,677	88,570	7,365	8.3	81,205
SEAPORT LMA	34,770	1,468	4.2	33,302	34,488	1,483	4.3	33,004

* The data was benchmarked February 27, 2002. This supercedes all other labor force data that has been published by the Idaho Department of Labor.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Labor Market Area (LMA): An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are two MSAs in Idaho—Boise City (including Ada and Canyon counties) and Pocatello City (including Bannock County).

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.